



"the Great Basin Airstream RV Association"

SIERRANEVADAIRSTREAMS.ORG/SNU



UNIONVILLE RALLY

Snow one month, record heat the next! One thing about the Great Basin area and SNU rallies, you never know what to expect weather wise. Unionville was just high enough and with trees and a breeze we stayed pretty comfortable. Nights were cool enough that a campfire was enjoyable. We had a great attendance at this rally - 11 Airstreams! Participants included Dyann and Jerry, Wes, and Roy, Dave G., Bryan, Diane, Anita, Ran-



R. Grossman

dy and Vicki, Roger and Jan, Robert and Yvonne, Kathy and Clint, Melissa and Roman and Gene and Carmen. We haven't seen Clint and Kathy since last year, It was great to catch up on all their travels and everything else they have been doing this past year. Other commitments have kept Randy and Vicki and Roger and Jan from attending earlier rallies so it was great that they were able to come to Unionville. The week before the rally the Old Pioneer called and canceled plans for our anticipated brunch. Dyann got busy and worked out an alternative. She asked Randy to make his famous waffles. Jerry and Dyann provided sausage and Melissa brought her blender

for fruit smoothies. It may not have been brunch at the Old Pioneer but I think we all were in agreement that the SNU brunch was a big success. In addition, a new tradition was born - fruit smoothies. Melissa had brought a variety of frozen fruits so everyone could just about have whatever they preferred. They really hit the spot with the waffles. Later in the afternoon Melissa got the blender going again and fruit smoothies were just what was needed on a warm afternoon. Roman even delivered smoothies right to people's door for those who weren't out sitting in the shade of the trees. Jerry got out his propane grill and cooked sausage and bacon for the brunch. I think that grill is going to get a lot more use at future rallies. Roy might have also started something new. She had some flowers she hadn't gotten planted in the yard yet so she brought them with her along with decorative pots. She placed these outside her Airstream and stuck in the solar lights. This created a really nice garden entry area in front of their trailer. To back track, Unionville's notoriously uneven ground provided the usual exercise in leveling. SNU is obviously getting more experienced at leveling as it seemed to take less time to set up than previous years and everyone comes better prepared with *[Unionville continued on page 2]*

IT'S OFFICIAL!

Gene and Carmen Baleme are now Airstream Owners and new "official" members of the SNU. They have been guests of the SNU at other rallies and when Melissa and Roman decided to sell their 1975 Trade Wind we were all keeping our fingers crossed Gene and Carmen would become the new owners. To the delight of everyone, they showed up at the Unionville rally towing their new to them, Airstream (Pepsi). Gene and Carmen are thrilled with their trailer and although it is in great shape, they have a few ideas of things they want to do to make it even better. Unionville's off level ground has put the idea of an electric tongue jack near the top of the "to do" list. Welcome Gene and Carmen.

[Ft. Sage continued from page 1] blocks, chocks, and other items needed to get the bubbles in the center. Leveling still provides a lot of entertainment for those who arrive first. We can sit in the shade and watch the other arrivals try to find a spot then watch their creativity at work leveling their trailer. While Randy was busy getting his trailer adjusted Roger and Jan arrived. They took one turn in the parking area, backed out, came in the upper gate and with no effort at all parked in a spot that was level side to side. All they had to do was jack up the hitch. This time Jerry gets the prize. The rear of his Airstream ended up on stilts. It looked a lot like a house you see in flood prone areas. Pretty amazing.

All in all it was a nice relaxing weekend. Various participants hiked all over the hills. Gene and Carmen took off exploring on their ATV. Most of us chose just to sit and visit and watch the peacocks and hummingbirds. Tim had put hummingbird feeders in the apple trees and the birds had no problem feeding with us sitting close by. Saturday evening a father and his three boys set up camp in the park. The SNU campfire provided them with a ready made fire for hot dogs and marshmallows. Sunday we had our usual coffee, goodies, and conversation before loading up and heading home. Unionville, once again proved to be one of our favorite rally sites.

INTERNATIONAL RALLY ATTENDANCE

It looks like the SNU might set another new record. The Unit will have three maybe five members attending the WBCCI International Rally in Bozeman Montana the end of June. Those planning to attend are Jerry and Dyann Thornburg, Don and Gail Williams, and Robert Sobsey and Yvonne DeMarco. Although we haven't heard directly Dale and Marge Grosch, long time rally participants and volunteers and Von Gallion also a long time participant and band member may also be attending. Don is the SNU elected delegate and Robert has volunteered to carry the SNU flag at the opening ceremony. Dyann is submitting our newsletters in the publications contest. Among the other activities and things to do, we hope they will be able to attend the Region 12 gathering at the rally. We look forward to hearing from all of them when they get home.

REMEMBER

you can now pay your rally kitty fees on-line!
<http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2008/pay-online/snu-shopping.html>

WEB LINKS

to information discussed in this newsletter including April rally photo gallery, the May rally site info, the WBCCI survey, and various Airstream blogs: <http://sierranevadaairstreams.org/snu/2008/08news/>

ALL ABOARD!

The June 2008 SNU Rally will be at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola CA. The dates are Thursday June 19 to Sunday June 22. Saturday evening we will have dinner in the nearby Log Cabin restaurant. We will need RSVP's for those who plan on dinner at the Log Cabin. Email hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org or call 775 972 5011. The highlight (or one of them) of this rally will be checking out the 42ft Custom Airstream, getting it cleaned up a little, and working out a plan for it's restoration. Then of course there are the trains and the historical artifacts in the museum. WPRRM offers caboose rides and you can even drive one of the engines. Gary and Anita Haskett have a friend who has a gift shop in Portola and she is looking forward to the rally participants visiting her. The rally will be in a corner of the museum parking lot. We will be right near downtown Portola. There is a good map linked on the rally page on the SNU website. See the link listed on the back of this newsletter. The Log Cabin restaurant has been in Portola for decades and in addition to great food, is almost a museum in itself.

NORRELL'S TRAVELS

We returned from our almost 3 month jaunt to Chicago (actually we also made it to the factory in Ohio), and had a wonderful time. We had a National Park Pass, which more than paid for itself, and we visited so many wonderful places. We could have continued traveling, and Bambi supplied everything we needed with no problems. We put over 10,000 miles on her. The only problem we had was our mail. Some mail got returned to sender, some was forwarded longer than it was supposed to be.

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLIN'S

I guess this is a time for reflections. First though I want to thank all of you for the wishes on the passing of my father. During the many trips between Fallon and Hawthorne, about 140 miles round trip, I had lots of time to reflect on what the lessons meant that he tried to give me.

Here's a little history of my dad. He moved to Hawthorne, Nevada in 1942. The only time he left there was for a stint in the army in WWII. He worked in the transportation department of the then Naval Ammunition Plant. Starting at the bottom and retiring as the transportation foreman. He retired when the government offered an early out in what was called the combination eighty, the years worked and your age had to equal at least eighty. He had thirty five years in. During the last part of this he started as a special deputy for the county, then time and re-25 years.



One of the things that he taught me at the age of seven, I was asked for a BB gun to take out into the desert. He told me no and on my eighth birthday he presented me with a 22 rifle. He then took me to the basement of the court house where he asked a friend who was an FBI agent to refine my shooting abilities. I was already competing against the local law in pistol matches. He also started me into archery and hunting competition. I turned professional in target archery in 1982. One of the other lessons was how to track not only animals but humans, which I would use in search and rescue. He left this teaching task to be done by some friends from the Shurz Paiute Reservation, who were/are the experts in this area.

One of the things that I didn't realize at a younger age was that he made it possible for me to learn things that were beyond his many capabilities by getting other family and friends to teach me their different abilities. Even when I was slogging through the jungles of Southeast Asia, I took these assets for granted. Now looking back on my life and his lessons I realize that he spent a lot of time making sure that I had the knowledge and abilities to make it through not only in the jungles but in life itself. In this I am

now very grateful.

One last thing that he taught me is that there is only one thing in life that is yours to keep or lose. That is your self integrity. Everything else can be affected by someone or something else. So think back on your own life lessons, and don't wait until someone passes to realize what you have gained. *Jerry*

SNU FLAGS!

The SNU has ordered 12 flags with our logo on a white background. This was voted on at the Unionville Rally. We have chosen to purchase 3 by 5 ft flags as that is a standard size and one most frequently use for WBCCI and Unit flags. The cost of the flags is \$82 each. If you indicated at Unionville that you wanted a flag or, if you were not at Unionville but want an SNU flag, please send your check to the SNU (see the return address on this newsletter). The flags will be ready by June 16. We will have them at the Portola rally. If you are unable to attend we will mail them to you.

BUSINESS MEETING

A short SNU business meeting was held after our waffle, sausage, and smoothie brunch on Saturday. Items discussed included voting for the nominees for the IBT, purchasing SNU flags, rally ad on Airforums, and potential future rally sites. The members present voted unanimously to request our delegate to vote as a Unit at the delegate meeting at the International Rally in Bozeman. We also chose to cast our vote for the IBT slate of officers as presented. We did however instruct our delegate to use his own judgment if needed to vote on anything that comes up or changes at the delegate meeting. Members present also voted to purchase 12 2X3 flags with the SNU logo. These flags will be available for purchase at \$75 each. If you are interested in purchasing an SNU flag email hq@sierranevadaairstreams.org. Other business included Don Williams announcement that an ad for the Portola rally will probably appear on Airforums. Diane provided a short review of some future SNU rally sites recently checked out by various members. After some general discussion the meeting was adjourned.

OBSERVATIONS & PERSONAL OPINIONS FROM LAS VEGAS & DEATH VALLEY AIRSTREAM TRIP

We departed Carson City on April 18 to attend a wedding in Las Vegas on the 20th. This was our first trip since installing a larger fuel tank in our F250 and was a good opportunity to experience our increased range and test the accuracy of the fuel gauge with the new tank. Our route was hwy. 395 with an overnight stop at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley. We found that Death Valley had already scaled down for the hot summer. The large asphalt dry camping area at Stovepipe Wells was closed and all that was available were hook-up sights that are normally used for the staff during the winter months. The only other RV areas that were open were Mesquite Spring and Furnace Creek camp grounds. Texas Spring campground and Sunset asphalt parking were closed for the summer.

The next day we continued on to Las Vegas. We stayed at the Oasis RV Park which was quite nice and a good place to stay when in the Las Vegas congestion. It is on Las Vegas Blvd. just a few miles south of the strip. In my opinion Las Vegas has been ruined and I have no desire to visit that area again. The strip is total congestion and claustrophobic. It is almost like New York in that it is better to take a taxi than to torture yourself by trying to drive through it and trying to find a parking place. We got hopelessly lost in the MGM Grand parking garage. It was a nightmare. Finding our way out of the garage was even worse. The day after the wedding we asked the question "do we want to stay another day in Vegas or spend the time in serene Death Valley?" The answers were a unanimous "let's get out of here." So back to Death Valley we went. The only good thing about Las Vegas was the wedding. Although we did miss having the obligatory Elvis impersonator at the wedding.

The added range provided by the new fuel tank was really nice. I was able to make all fuel stops while disconnected from the Airstream and I was able to avoid having to buy fuel in the areas where fuel prices were the highest. However, my wallet had a hard time getting used to spending nearly \$200 to fill the tank. I was concerned about how accurate the fuel gauge would be with the new tank. I was pleased to find that the gauge seemed to provide readings that were about as accurate/inaccurate and consistent/inconsistent as they had been with the old tank. I have decided to apply an aircraft fuel management practice to road travel. It consists of estimating the fuel remaining based on miles driven. Then comparing that estimate with the fuel remaining per the gauge and believing the one that shows the least fuel remaining. I have also decided to always carry a five gallon can filled with diesel fuel. No matter how large a fuel tank I have there will always be the tendency at times to push the

range limits. Knowing that there is five gallons in reserve really provides a cushy feeling.

The trip was also my first opportunity to test my new Magellan GPS road navigator. We named the unit Rooda. This is because the unit has a female voice and is for the road. I found Rooda to have many failings. The worst was when she tried to kill us. We were winding our way through the mountains of Death Valley and Rooda said turn right here. Well, we would have gone through a guard rail, become a sail rig, and ended up in a ravine. On the way home I could not get her to give me a hwy. 95 route. For the first 100 miles she continually wanted me to make a U turn and go back to where I started. For the rest of the trip she insisted that I cut over to hwy. 395 whenever we came to a road that would accomplish such. Rooda is really quite dumb. I am not too positively impressed with GPS road navigation. GPS works much better for air navigation.

As a final observation, those who know me know that I much prefer dry camping, especially in the middle of nowhere. It is ironic that this trip consisted exclusively of staying at RV parks with full hook-ups every night. This will be corrected in upcoming trips.

Randy Grossman

RALLY SITE SCOUTS REPORT

In the past month, Gary Haskett, Bryan, Diane, and Anita Leipper have checked out some potential SNU rallies sites. Gary, Bryan and Diane found a good cold weather site at the Mason Valley Wildlife Area near Yerrington. The camping spot is basically a big gravel parking area. It is about a mile from a large fish hatchery. There is a potential for a tour of this facility and even maybe some volunteer effort on the part of the SNU. Another site these three checked out was Sweetwater Summit, site of the SNU July 2008 rally. This is a dispersed BLM area with fantastic mountain views. It is right off the highway around a hill. Anita stopped by to visit SNU member Spencer Thomas and check out property he has near Canby and also near Hat Creek. Both properties appear to be fantastic rally sites. The Hat Creek property is in a meadow with pine trees and a nearby stream. The Canby property is also a meadow with junipers and great views. See page 2 of this newsletter for the link to photo galleries of all these sites.

MONEY MATTERS

How do we spend our money? The SNU collects membership dues and contributions for its rally and luncheon meetings to cover its expenses. As a nonprofit and tax exempt organization, it needs to make sure that it spends its money in appropriate ways. The IRS has recently starting requiring small nonprofits like the SNU to file a form in part because some small nonprofits were not using their money in appropriate ways. The key to figuring out what is appropriate and what is not is whether or not the money is spent to further the purpose and mission of the organization. Appropriate uses of SNU money include paying for those things needed to operate the organization like postage, paper, office supplies, web hosting, and bank fees. Program costs are also appropriate. These include payment for facilities that are used by the organization, reservation fees, and special project expenses. Uses of SNU money that are not appropriate include anything that goes directly to a member or does not support the reason why the SNU exists. The SNU can pay members to reimburse their expense for the SNU or it might even hire a member for a specific job or it might give a gift to a member in recognition of some effort on the part of organization. Any money coming out of the SNU bank account must be tied to the reason the SNU exists as defined in its Constitution and Bylaws.

FUN FOR ALL

"I just want EVERYONE to have as much fun as I do.... the whole world should airstream as far as I am concerned. I would even invite the devil himself if he promised to play nice at rallies and bring good food." - Melissa Wong.

The SNU shares Melissa's desire to make Airstreaming, in particular, our rallies fun for everyone. The best way to do that is stick to what makes Airstream ownership and membership in WBCCI and the SNU special - getting out and enjoying your Airstream and all the special places to camp in the Great Basin area with others who share the same interests. The other important factor is input from SNU members. It is your ideas, suggestions, feedback and most important, your participation that ensure the SNU meets the needs and interests of all it's members. Come to rallies, respond to the online surveys and questionnaires, email us, give us a call, send a letter. Let us know what you think. Let us know why you joined the SNU and what we can do to ensure you will continue being a member long into the future. Let us know what you think would be fun to do at a rally. Let us know what would encourage your participation. All of us who participate in SNU activities share Melissa's enthusiasm. It is up to us to share that enthusiasm and encourage others to join in the fun.

RALLY AND EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2008

- * June 28 - July 4, 2008 Bozeman, Montana 51st WBCCI International Rally
- * Thursday July 17 - Sunday 20, 2008 Sweetwater Summit dispersed BLM, near Yerrington
- * Thursday August 21 - Sunday 24, 2008 Eagle Lake BLM Campground northeast of Susanville, CA
- * Thursday September 18 - Sunday 21, 2008 Obsidian Dome (Inyo Nat'l Forest) dispersed camping - off US 395 South between June Lakes and Mammoth Lakes
- * Friday October 16 - Sunday 19, 2008 Blue Lakes, PG&E campground off Hwy 88 Hope Valley back up - Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, Pelican Point
- * Saturday November 22, 2008 Chuckars Fernley Exit 46 off I80 on the west end of Fernley, NV
- * Thursday November 13 - Sunday 16, 2008 Death Valley Mesquite campground
- * Saturday December 13, 2008 JT's Basque restaurant, Minden, NV - on US 395 south



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